MARVEL
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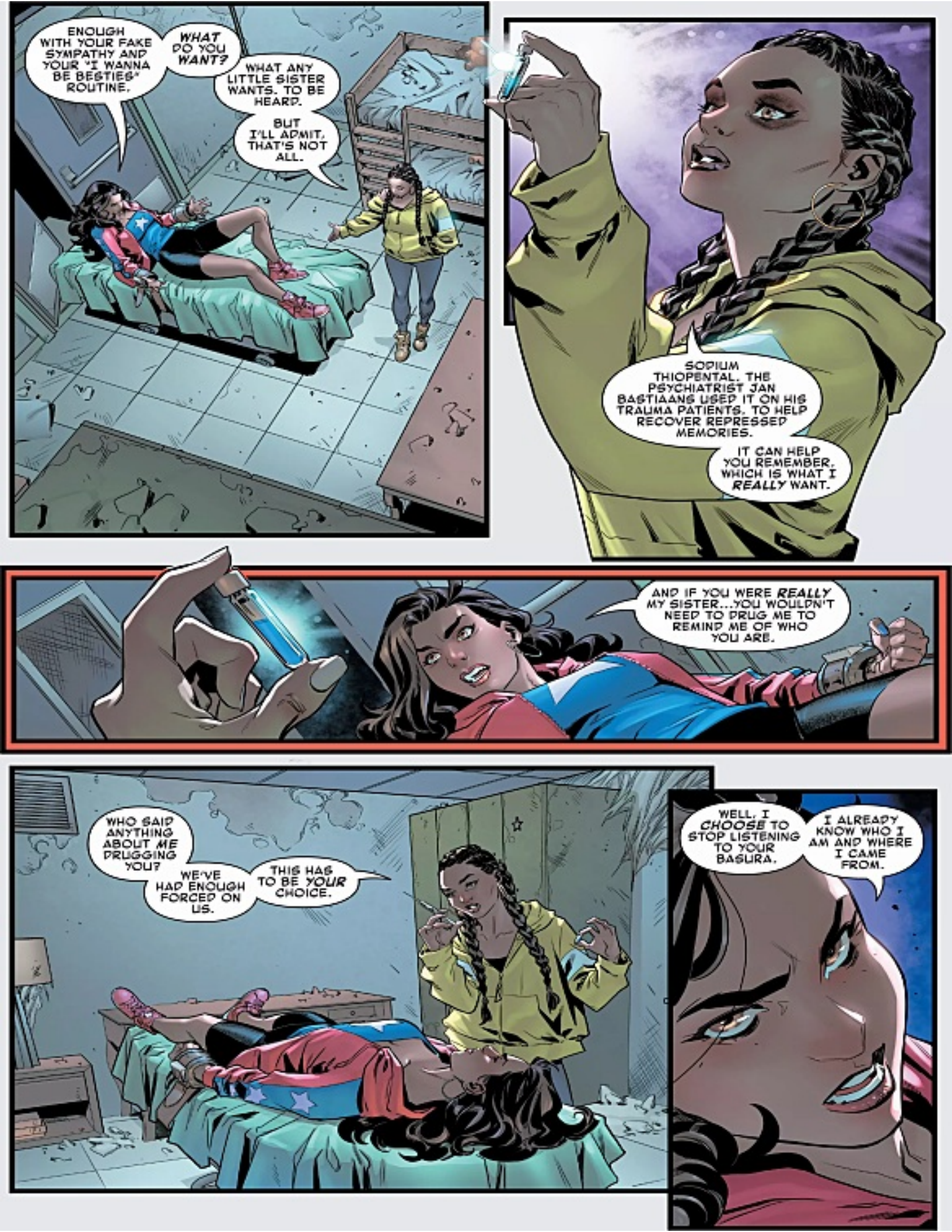
AMERICA CHAVEZ
MADE IN THE USA
VAZQUEZ
GÓMEZ
ABURTOV
Bonvillan

When America Chavez's super hero mothers sacrificed their lives to save their home dimension, the Utopian Parallel, young America knew she needed to live up to their example. America fell to Earth and became the portal-punching, dimension-shattering, super-strong hero she was born to be.
America's powers are fritzing with no warning. But that hasn't stopped her from dropping everything to rush to New York City to save the Santana family, who raised her after she fell to Earth. . . until America chose to leave them behind. America has chased the mysterious person who attacked the Santanas out of the city—but as they got the jump on her, they ominously welcomed her to. . . the Utopian Parallel???
AMERICA CHAVEZ
MADE IN THE U.S.A
KALINDA VAZQUEZ • WRITER
CARLOS GÓMEZ • ARTIST
JESUS ABURTOV • COLOR ARTIST
VC'S TRAVIS LANHAM • LETTERER
SARA PICHELLI & TAMRA BONVILLAIN • COVER ARTISTS
BETSY COLA • VARIANT COVER ARTIST
CARLOS LAO • PRODUCTION DESIGN
ANNALISE BISSA • EDITOR
JORDAN D. WHITE & SANA AMANAT • SUPERVISING EDITORS
C.B. CEBULSKI • EDITOR IN CHIEF

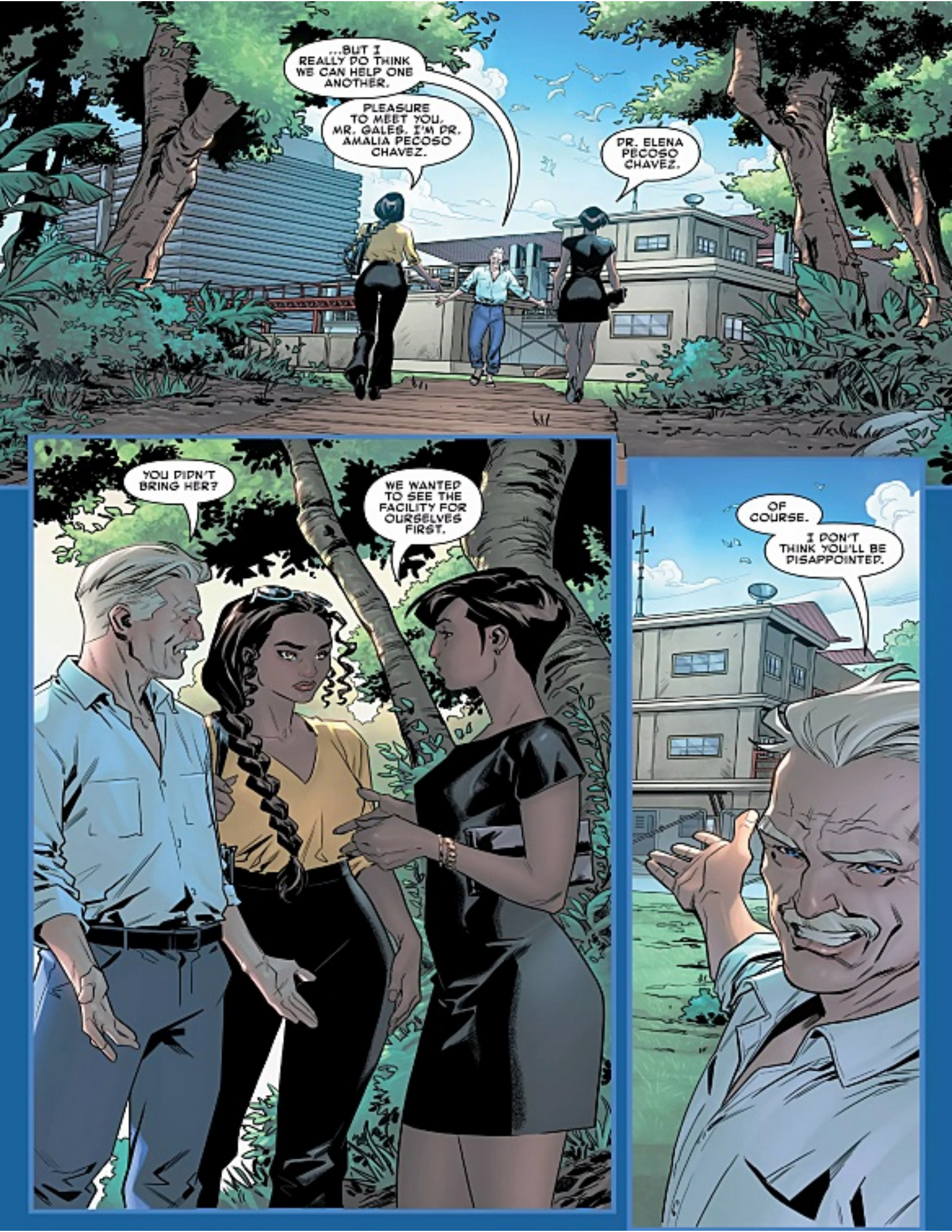
MORNING, SUNSHINE.
LOOKS LIKE OUR OLD ROOM, RIGHT?
DON'T YOU THINK, AMERICA?
SORRY, BUT I NEEDED YOUR ATTENTION. I NEEDED TO GET YOU BACK HERE.
YOU MEAN THIS ZERO CHARISMA EXCUSE FOR A BEACH RESORT?
AT LEAST YOU FINALLY HAVE THE NERVE TO SHOW YOUR FACE. HAPPY TO REPORT IT MEANS ABSOLUTELY NOTHING TO ME.
WHO ARE YOU?
SURE YOU'RE READY TO HEAR THAT?
I THINK I'D LIKE TO KICK YOU INTO THE NEXT DIMENSION AFTER WHAT YOU DID TO THE SANTANAS.
YEAH, ABOUT THAT...

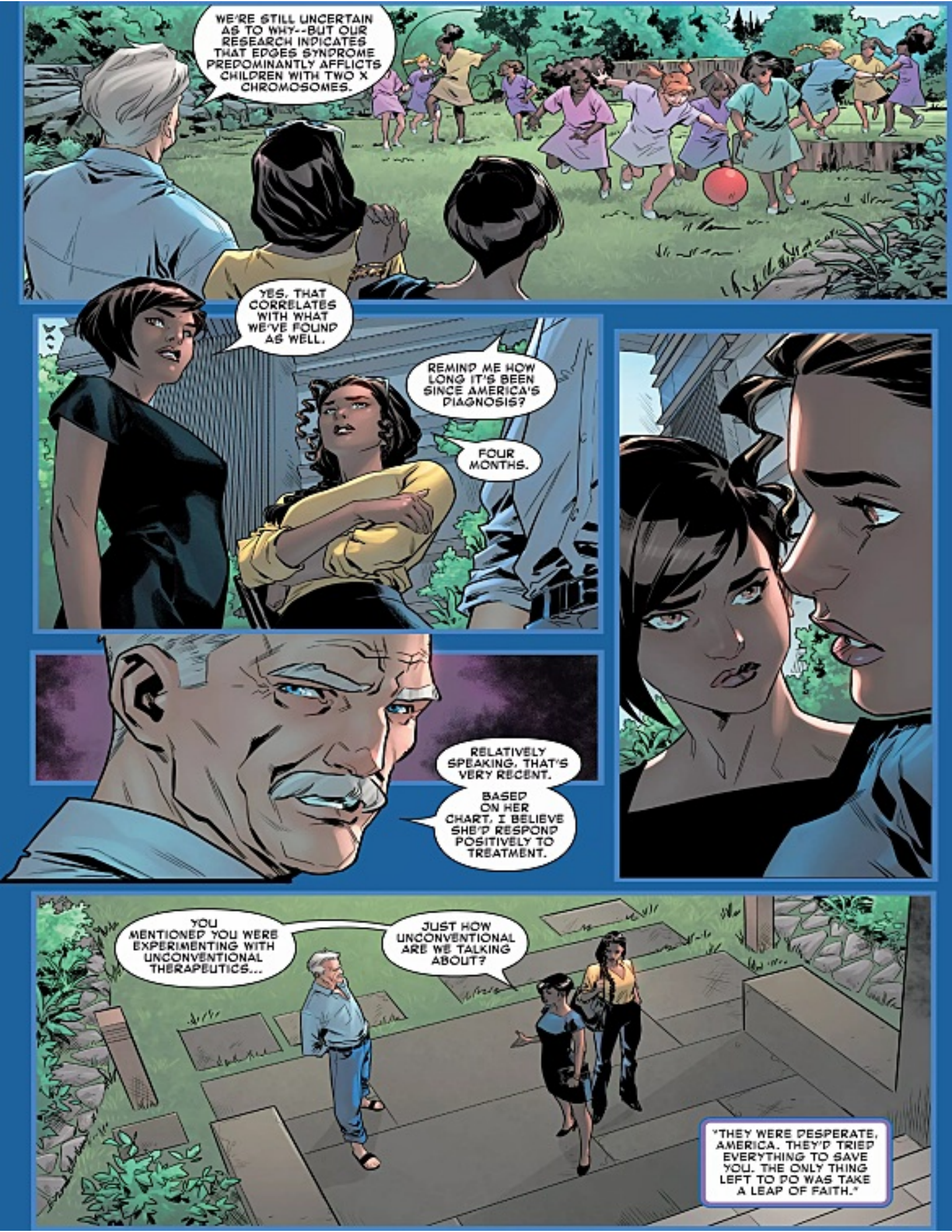
I'M YOUR SISTER.
BZZZT
...
RIGHT. CLARO. MY SISTER.
I'M ASSUMING YOU MEAN THAT IN THE SPIRITUAL SENSE? 'CAUSE MY MOMS ONLY EVER HAD ONE KID.
ME.
TYPICAL OLDER SIBLING.
THINKING YOU'RE THE CENTER OF THE UNIVERSE.
BZZZZ
ZZZT
BUMMER, ISN'T IT? WHEN YOUR BODY JUST GIVES OUT WITH NO EXPLANATION.
BELIEVE ME, I CAN RELATE.

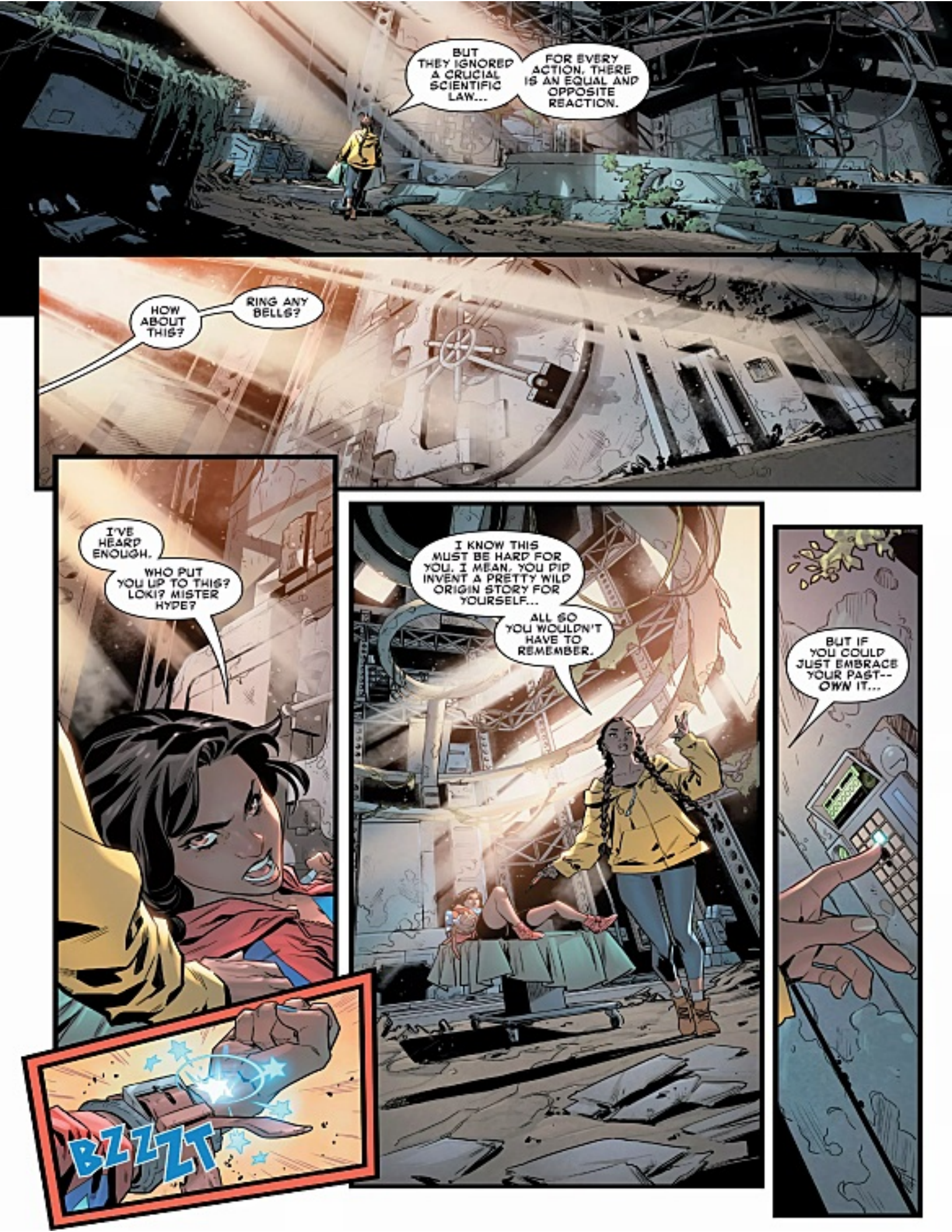

ENOUGH WITH YOUR FAKE SYMPATHY AND YOUR "I WANNA BE BESTIES" ROUTINE.
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
WHAT ANY LITTLE SISTER WANTS. TO BE HEARD.
BUT I'LL ADMIT, THAT'S NOT ALL.
SODIUM THIOPENTAL. THE PSYCHIATRIST JAN BASTIAANS USED IT ON HIS TRAUMA PATIENTS. TO HELP RECOVER REPRESSED MEMORIES.
IT CAN HELP YOU REMEMBER, WHICH IS WHAT I REALLY WANT.
AND IF YOU WERE REALLY MY SISTER...YOU WOULDN'T NEED TO DRUG ME TO REMIND ME OF WHO YOU ARE.
WHO SAID ANYTHING ABOUT ME DRUGGING YOU?
WE'VE HAD ENOUGH FORCED ON US.
THIS HAS TO BE YOUR CHOICE.
WELL, I CHOOSE TO STOP LISTENING TO YOUR BASURA.
I ALREADY KNOW WHO I AM AND WHERE I CAME FROM.

RIGHT. SOME FAR-FLUNG DIMENSION, A.K.A. THE UTOPIAN PARALLEL, WHERE OUR MOTHERS SACRIFICED THEMSELVES TO SAVE EVERYONE.
YOU TELL ANYONE WHO'LL LISTEN.
...AMALIA AND ELENA, WERE JUST TWO DOCTORS FROM THE BRONX.
WHAT IF I TOLD YOU THE UTOPIAN PARALLEL WAS ACTUALLY JUST A SMALL ISLAND OWNED BY A RICH, ECCENTRIC WHITE DUDE.
THAT IT'S THE ISLAND WE'RE ON RIGHT NOW.
AND THAT *OUR* MOTHERS...
YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME... I GET IT.
BUT MAYBE AFTER I TELL YOU THE WHOLE DEAL, YOU WILL. MAYBE THEN YOU'LL *WANT* TO REMEMBER.
TOOK ME A WHILE TO PIECE IT TOGETHER. OLD PAPERWORK AND FORGOTTEN WITNESSES. BUT AS FAR AS I CAN TELL, THIS IS IT.
THE TRUTH.

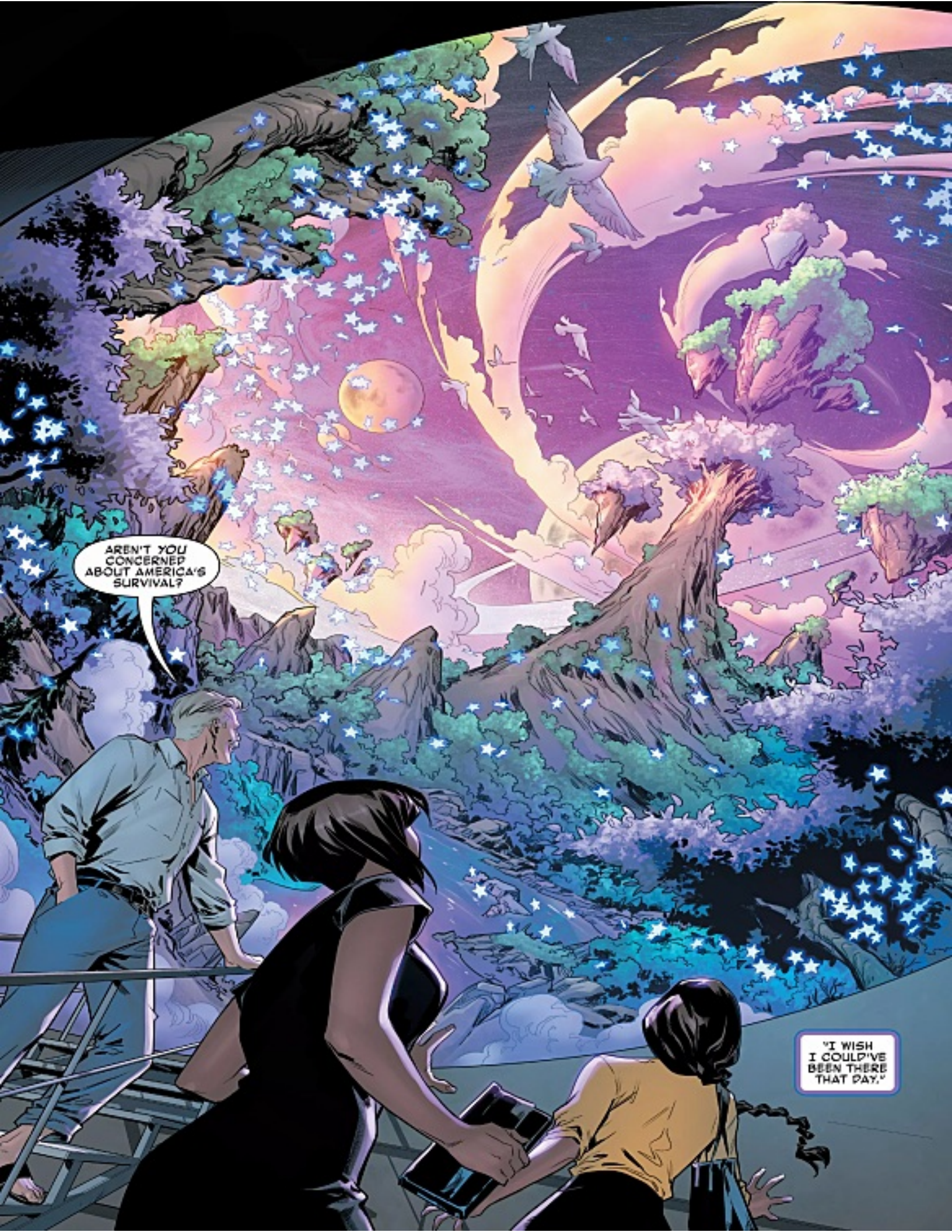
Somewhere off the shore of Long Island. Fifteen years ago...
"ONCE UPON A TIME, THERE WERE TWO BRILLIANT MEDICAL RESEARCHERS...
"...LOOKING TO SOLVE A PROBLEM THAT THREATENED TO BLOW UP THEIR WHOLE WORLD."
NEXT TIME A WEIRDO BILLIONAIRE TELLS ME THEIR PRIVATE ISLAND FEELS LIKE ANOTHER DIMENSION...
...I GUESS I'LL BELIEVE THEM.
LET'S JUST GET THIS OVER WITH.
I KNOW WE ALL WISH WE WERE HERE UNDER DIFFERENT CIRCUMSTANCES...


...BUT I REALLY DO THINK WE CAN HELP ONE ANOTHER.
PLEASURE TO MEET YOU, MR. GALES. I'M DR. AMALIA PECOSO CHAVEZ.
DR. ELENA PECOSO CHAVEZ.
YOU DIDN'T BRING HER?
WE WANTED TO SEE THE FACILITY FOR OURSELVES FIRST.
OF COURSE.
I DON'T THINK YOU'LL BE DISAPPOINTED.


WE'RE STILL UNCERTAIN AS TO WHY--BUT OUR RESEARCH INDICATES THAT EDGES SYNDROME PREDOMINANTLY AFFLICTS CHILDREN WITH TWO X CHROMOSOMES.
YES. THAT CORRELATES WITH WHAT WE'VE FOUND AS WELL.
REMIND ME HOW LONG IT'S BEEN SINCE AMERICA'S DIAGNOSIS?
FOUR MONTHS.
RELATIVELY SPEAKING, THAT'S VERY RECENT.
BASED ON HER CHART, I BELIEVE SHE'D RESPOND POSITIVELY TO TREATMENT.
YOU MENTIONED YOU WERE EXPERIMENTING WITH UNCONVENTIONAL THERAPEUTICS...
JUST HOW UNCONVENTIONAL ARE WE TALKING ABOUT?
"THEY WERE DESPERATE, AMERICA. THEY'D TRIED EVERYTHING TO SAVE YOU. THE ONLY THING LEFT TO DO WAS TAKE A LEAP OF FAITH."


BUT THEY IGNORED A CRUCIAL SCIENTIFIC LAW...
FOR EVERY ACTION, THERE IS AN EQUAL AND OPPOSITE REACTION.
HOW ABOUT THIS?
RING ANY BELLS?
I'VE HEARD ENOUGH.
WHO PUT YOU UP TO THIS? LOKI? MISTER HYDE?
BZZZT
I KNOW THIS MUST BE HARD FOR YOU. I MEAN, YOU DID INVENT A PRETTY WILD ORIGIN STORY FOR YOURSELF...
ALL SO YOU WOULDN'T HAVE TO REMEMBER.
BUT IF YOU COULD JUST EMBRACE YOUR PAST-- OWN IT...

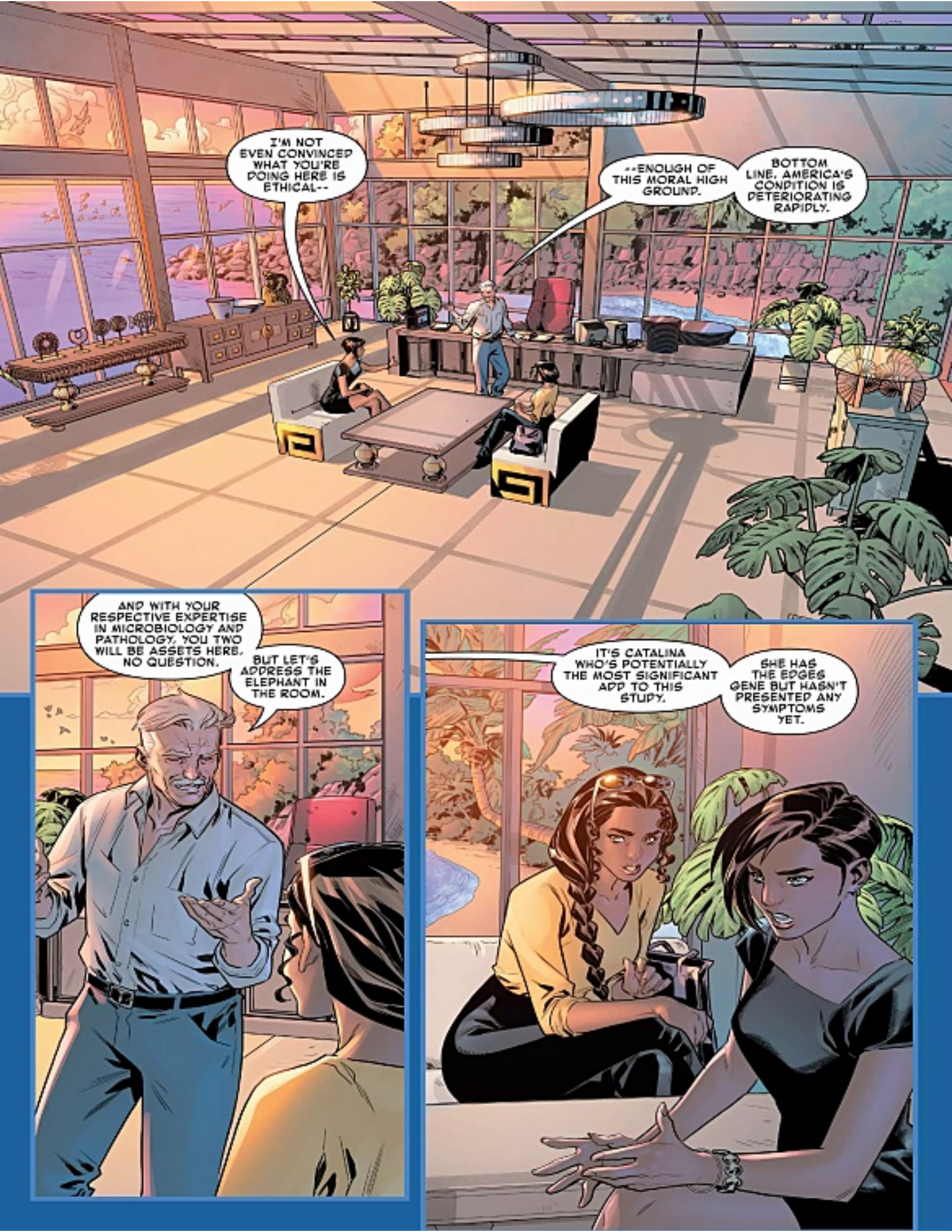
"...YOU'LL FEEL SO MUCH FREER."
I HOPE WE KNOW WHAT WE'RE DOING.
WE AGREED, DIDN'T WE? WHATEVER IT TAKES?
WHEN I DISCOVERED THIS ISLAND...I KNEW RIGHT AWAY THERE WAS NO OTHER PLACE ON EARTH LIKE IT.
THIS CHAMBER WAS BUILT TO HARNESS THE UNIQUE ENERGY THAT PASSES THROUGH THIS PLACE.
YOU MEAN... MAGIC.
TOMATO, TOMAH-TO.
YOU LOCK THOSE LITTLE GIRLS IN THERE?
TIME AND SPACE MOVE DIFFERENTLY IN THE CHAMBER. IT ENCOURAGES THE CELLS IN THEIR BODY TO DO THE SAME--
--AND INTERFERES WITH THE DISEASE RAVAGING THEIR BODIES.
THERE'S NEVER BEEN ANY REPUTABLE MEDICAL RESEARCH ON THIS KIND OF ENERGY...
AREN'T YOU CONCERNED ABOUT POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS?


AREN'T YOU CONCERNED ABOUT AMERICA'S SURVIVAL?
"I WISH I COULD'VE BEEN THERE THAT DAY."

TO SEE THEIR FACES WHEN HE OPENED THAT DOOR.
TO TELL THEM TO RUN.
TOO LATE NOW.
SIGH...
GALES CALLED US HIS STARLINGS.
I GUESS YOU DON'T REMEMBER THAT EITHER.
BUT THIS LITTLE SYRINGE CAN CHANGE THAT.
KEEP YOUR POISON. I'M NOT INTERESTED.
IF I WANTED YOU DEAD, YOU'D BE DEAD.
RRRRP

SHOULD WE TEST THAT THEORY?
HAVEN'T YOU EVER WONDERED WHY YOU'RE SO STRONG?
WHY YOU CAN FLY OR...HOP DIMENSIONS?

YOU WERE A GUINEA PIG!
YOU TALK A LOT OF SMACK ABOUT MY MOMS...
OOOF!
...AND ME...
CRR RSSSSHH
BUT IF WHAT YOU SAY IS REAL--
--WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN ALL THIS TIME?
"SO YOU'RE SUGGESTING WE RELOCATE TO THE FACILITY? AS A FAMILY?"

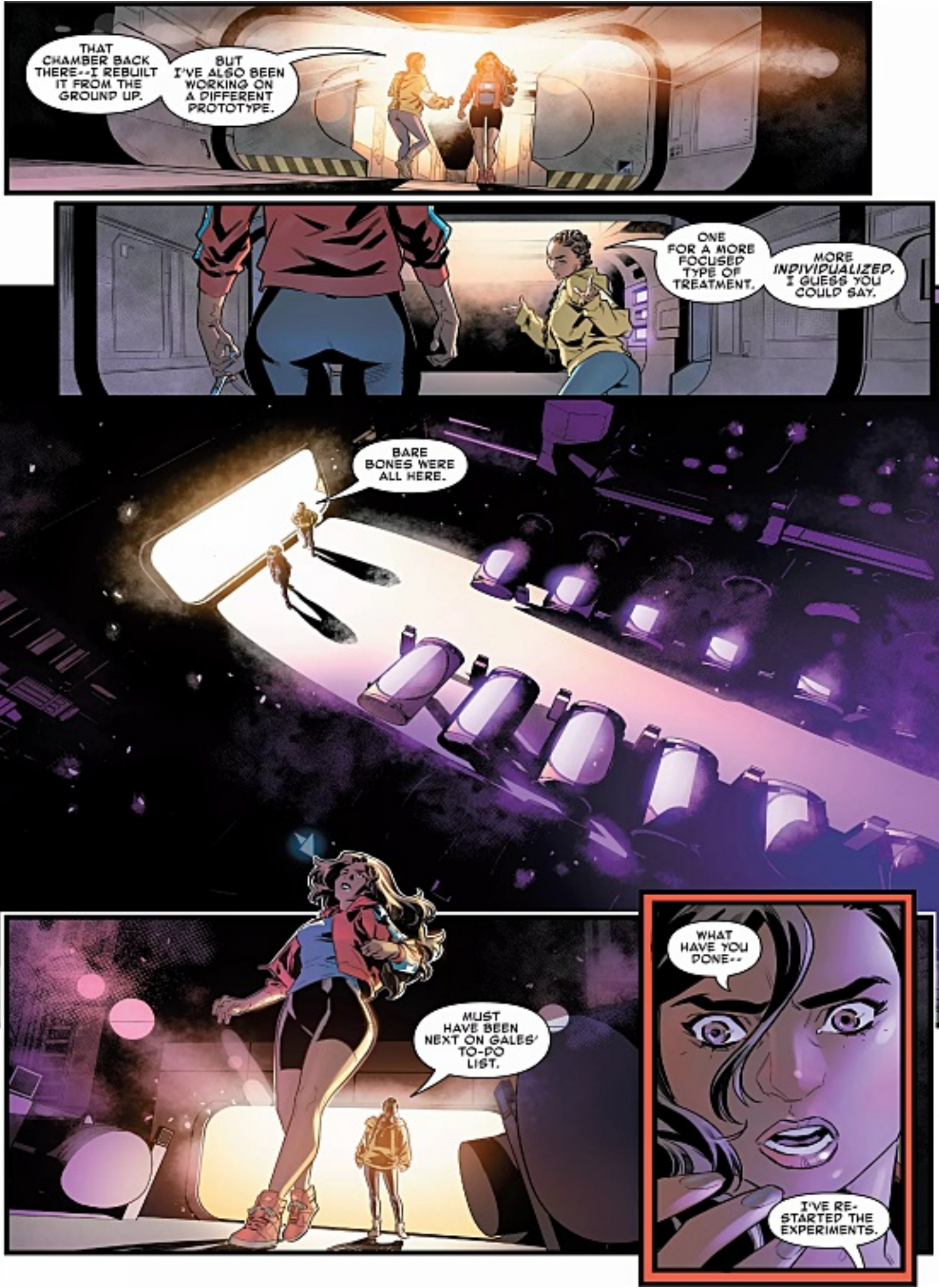

I'M NOT EVEN CONVINCED WHAT YOU'RE DOING HERE IS ETHICAL--
--ENOUGH OF THIS MORAL HIGH GROUND.
BOTTOM LINE, AMERICA'S CONDITION IS DETERIORATING RAPIDLY.
AND WITH YOUR RESPECTIVE EXPERTISE IN MICROBIOLOGY AND PATHOLOGY, YOU TWO WILL BE ASSETS HERE, NO QUESTION.
BUT LET'S ADDRESS THE ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM.
IT'S CATALINA WHO'S POTENTIALLY THE MOST SIGNIFICANT ADD TO THIS STUDY.
SHE HAS THE EDGES GENE BUT HASN'T PRESENTED ANY SYMPTOMS YET.

WE DON'T NEED TO DRAG CATALINA INTO THIS. SHE'S HEALTHY.
FOR NOW.
I READ ALL YOUR RESEARCH, GALES.
YOU THINK MONITORING CATALINA'S LATENT CELL ANOMALY WILL PROVIDE INVALUABLE INSIGHT INTO HOW THE DISEASE WORKS.
I DON'T JUST THINK IT. I KNOW IT.
CATALINA IS THE KEY HERE. TO SAVING AMERICA. TO SAVING ALL OF THEM.
YOUR GIRLS MIGHT BE TOO YOUNG TO UNDERSTAND THE SACRIFICES YOU ARE ALL MAKING FOR EACH OTHER HERE.
BUT ONE DAY, THEY WILL.
AND THAT WILL BOND THEM IN A WAY YOU CAN'T IMAGINE.

AND JUST THINK--IF CATALINA SHOULD EVER MANIFEST SYMPTOMS HERSELF...
THERE WILL BE A TREATMENT READY FOR HER.
CHEER UP, LADIES.
WE'RE ABOUT TO SAVE YOUR LITTLE GIRL.
BOTH OF THEM, I HOPE.
"THEY THOUGHT THEY WERE AGREEING TO A TEMPORARY COMPROMISE FOR A LASTING SOLUTION..."

THEY WERE WRONG. GALES NEVER FOUND A CURE FOR EDGES. OUR MOMS-- THEY GOT CLOSE--
--BUT CLOSE DOESN'T CUT IT.
YOU AND ME? STILL SICK.
SPEAK FOR YOURSELF.
BZZ
ZZZ
THEN WHAT DO YOU CALL THAT?
ZZZZZT
THE TREATMENTS WE RECEIVED ONLY LAST FOR SO LONG.
THEY'RE FINALLY WEARING OFF. FOR GOOD.
YOU'RE DYING.
WE'RE DYING.

I AM SO DONE WITH YOUR LIES!
SOME PART OF YOU KNOWS I'M TELLING THE TRUTH.
THE PART OF YOU THAT WANTS TO REMEMBER.
IF WE'RE GOING TO BEAT THIS THING WE NEED TO BE ON THE SAME PAGE.
NEVER GONNA HAPPEN.
LET ME JUST SHOW YOU SOMETHING-- OKAY?
YOU HAVE ABOUT SIXTY SECONDS...


THAT CHAMBER BACK THERE--I REBUILT IT FROM THE GROUND UP.
BUT I'VE ALSO BEEN WORKING ON A DIFFERENT PROTOTYPE.
ONE FOR A MORE FOCUSED TYPE OF TREATMENT.
MORE *INDIVIDUALIZED*, I GUESS YOU COULD SAY.
BARE BONES WERE ALL HERE.
MUST HAVE BEEN NEXT ON GALES' TO-DO LIST.
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE--
I'VE RE-STARTED THE EXPERIMENTS.

IT'S TIME...
...TO FINISH WHAT OUR MOMS STARTED.
TO BE CONTINUED!

NEXT:

ISSUE #4

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